

REMARKS

Applicant has herein amended the specification and drawings to correct typographical errors or insert missing reference characters or lead lines. Claims 26-50 have been cancelled herein and new claims 51-78 have been added. New claims 51-78 are supported by at least prior claims 26-50 and pages 5-7 of the specification as originally filed. New claims 51-78 have been drafted to clarify the claimed invention, establish proper antecedent basis, and/or broaden the claim coverage. Applicant submits that the amendments to the specification, drawings and claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-50 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action set forth a restriction requirement requiring applicant to elect one of the following groups of claims for prosecution on the merits:

- Group I: claims 26-44, directed towards a methods
- Group II: claims 45-50, directed towards an apparatus

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects Group I corresponding to method claims 26-44 without traverse. As discussed above, applicant has herein cancelled all of claims 26-50. However, applicant submits that all of new method claims 51-78 read on the above election and thus consideration of claims 51-78 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also set forth an election of species. Specifically, if the Group I claims were elected, the Office Action required that the applicant elect between the following two species:

- Species I: the hydrogen peroxide/water vapor contains 30-35% hydrogen peroxide, as covered by claim 36
- Species II: wherein the vapor of hydrogen peroxide and water also contains peracetic acid as covered by claims 35 and 37

In response to the election requirement, applicant hereby elects Species I. Applicant assert that claims 51-60, 63-72, and 74-78 read on the elected species. As such, applicant has herein withdrawn new claims 61, 62, and 73.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 51-78 as currently pending in the present application with claims 61, 62, and 73 being withdrawn from consideration. Should the Examiner find any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 26th day of April 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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